

FNS Responses to 2011 Hurricanes

As of October 3, 2011, FNS has provided over \$47 million in Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) benefits to 411,469 people in 225,124 households to help disaster survivors in 108 counties, 11 States and the Territory of Puerto Rico in response to the extended power outages and flooding caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. The States of New York and Pennsylvania are currently operating D-SNAPs. SNAP replacement benefits and USDA Foods for congregate and household feeding are also being provided to disaster survivors. FNS Regional Offices continue to work with States to determine what options and waivers in its food assistance programs might be used to address the needs of their SNAP participants and other disaster survivors as they continue to recover.

Specific FNS disaster food assistance responses by State/Territory so far include:

Connecticut

As of October 3, 2011, FNS has provided over \$240,419 in D-SNAP benefits to 522 households and 1384 people in 8 Connecticut counties affected by Tropical Storm Irene.

The State received FNS approval:

- On September 16, 2011, to operate a D-SNAP in all (8) Connecticut counties, including Litchfield, Fairfield, Hartford, New Haven, Middlesex, Tolland, Windham, and New London due to Tropical Storm Irene that first struck the State on August 27, 2011, for 5 business days from September 21-27, 2011. Only households who resided in Connecticut at the time of the disaster will be eligible for the D-SNAP. For applications submitted by clients who were in line at the application site by September 27, 2011, benefits will be made available to eligible households within 3 days.
- On September 16, 2011, to issue supplemental benefits to all ongoing SNAP households in Connecticut.
- On September 2, 2011, to issue mass SNAP replacement benefits equal to 25% of the August 2011 allotment to all SNAP households in the State who began to experience power outages and flooding caused by Hurricane Irene on August 28, 2011. Households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss are excluded from the mass replacement process. If a household submits an affidavit after receiving the 25% mass replacement and requests an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household is only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced. Replacement benefits will automatically be issued to SNAP households by means of an automated credit to their Electronic Benefits Transfer card.
- On September 2, 2011, to extend the time for reporting loss of food purchased with August 2011 SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits through September 19, 2011, if actual losses exceeded the 25% mass replacement amount and the household submits a signed affidavit.

Connecticut Department of Social Services SNAP Information:

<http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?a=2353&q=411676>

FEMA declared disaster counties:

<http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=15572>

Delaware

The State received FNS approval:

- On September 7, 2011, to extend the time for reporting loss of food purchased with August 2011 SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits through September 9, 2011, if the household submits a signed affidavit.

Delaware Health and Social Services Food Benefits Information:

<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dss/>

Maryland

The State received FNS approval:

- On September 7, 2011, to extend the time for reporting loss of food purchased with August 2011 SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits through September 9, 2011, if the household submits a signed affidavit.

Maryland Department of Human Resources Food Supplement Program Information:

<http://dhr.maryland.gov/fiaprograms/fstamp/index.php>

Massachusetts

The State received FNS approval:

- On September 21, 2011, to extend the time for reporting loss of food purchased with August 2011 SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits through September 23, 2011, for SNAP households in Berkshire and Franklin counties, if the household submits a signed affidavit.

Massachusetts Health and Human Services SNAP Information:

<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eohhs2subtopic&L=5&L0=Home&L1=Consumer&L2=Basic+Needs&L3=Food+%26+Nutrition&L4=SNAP+Benefits&sid=Eeohhs2>

FEMA declared disaster counties:

<http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=15596>

New Jersey

As of October 3, 2011, FNS has provided over \$8 million in D-SNAP benefits to 116,720 people in 98,604 households in 21 New Jersey counties affected by Hurricane Irene.

The State received FNS approval:

- On September 22, 2011, to extend certification periods and postpone periodic reports for one month for any simplified case (households certified for 12 or 24 months and who report at 6 or 12 months) that is scheduled for a recertification or periodic report by October 1, 2011. These cases will be extended for an additional month without the need to recertify or file a periodic report. Any case which is scheduled for recertification by October 1, 2011, must be recertified by November 1, 2011. Periodic reports which are scheduled to be processed by October 1, 2011, must be processed by November 1, 2011.

- On September 4, 2011, to operate D-SNAP in (5) counties, including Bergen, Essex, Morris, Passaic and Somerset due to Hurricane Irene that first struck the State on August 27, 2011. Bergen and Essex Counties accepted applications from September 8-16, 2011. Passaic County will accept applications from September 7-22, 2011; Morris County will accept applications until September 20, 2011; and Somerset County will accept applications until September 22, 2011 (4-day extension approved on September 16, 2011.) Applications will not be accepted on Saturday or Sunday.
- On September 9, 2011, to operate a D-SNAP in (16) counties, including Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem, Union, and Warren from September 12-20, 2011. Mercer and Sussex Counties will accept applications from September 21-26, 2011 (4-day extension approved on September 16, 2011.)
- On September 15, 2011, to issue automatic, mass supplements to ongoing SNAP households in Atlantic, Monmouth, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Cape May (approved September 16, 2011) counties. For households in the (15) other counties with declared disasters, D-SNAP supplements may be provided to ongoing households via affidavit (approved September 9, 2011), except households who filed an affidavit for replacement SNAP benefits and households who did not request replacement SNAP benefits but who file an affidavit attesting to their disaster-related expenses. These households will receive automatic supplemental benefits.
- On September 16, 2011, to issue mass SNAP replacement benefits equal to 15% of the August 2011 allotments to households who resided in the counties of Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, Passaic, Somerset, and Sussex at the time of the disaster. Households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss are excluded from the mass replacement process. If a household submits an affidavit after receiving the 15% mass replacement and requests an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household is only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced. Replacement benefits will automatically be issued to SNAP households by means of an automated credit to their Electronic Benefits Transfer card.
- On September 14, 2011, to extend the time for reporting loss of food purchased with August 2011 SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits through September 22, 2011, if the household submits a signed affidavit.

Status of USDA Foods:

- On September 1, 2011, the State received approval to provide 15,410 pounds of USDA Foods from State warehouses (Pennsylvania sent an additional 11,274 pounds of USDA Foods delivered on September 2, 2011) to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey where it is estimated 3,000 congregate meals will be served daily for the next 10 days to feed individuals sheltered in Northern New Jersey. The Food Bank will prepare the meals, which the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army will serve to the disaster survivors in shelters in the hardest hit areas of the State. Total amount of food is valued at \$27,631. As of September 9, 2011, the State was providing approximately 1,800 meals utilizing USDA Foods in affected areas in Northern New Jersey.

New Jersey Department of Human Services SNAP Information:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/foodstamps/>

FEMA declared disaster counties:

<http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=15536>

New York

The State received FNS approval:

- On September 21, 2011, to operate a D-SNAP due to Tropical Storm Lee which struck the State on September 7, 2011, in (7) counties, including Broome, Chemung (approved September 23, 2011), Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Schenectady, and Tioga beginning no earlier than September 23, 2011, and continuing up to 7 days (3-day extension for Broome and Tioga Counties approved on September 30, 2011.) Applications in Broome and Tioga Counties may be taken beginning no earlier than October 3, 2011, for 3 days. Applications will be taken in Chemung County from September 26-October 4, 2011. Individuals who suffered damage or food loss alone from Tropical Storm Lee and who resided or worked in the 7 aforementioned counties on September 7, 2011, will be considered eligible for D-SNAP benefits. No household may receive more than one D-SNAP or supplemental allotment during the benefit period, even if the household incurred expenses from both Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Irene.
- On September 14, 2011, to operate a D-SNAP in (11) counties, including Delaware, Essex, Greene, Orange, Schenectady, Ulster and Westchester from September 22, 2011, for 7 calendar days, and in Albany, Dutchess, Montgomery and Schoharie counties from September 22, 2011, for 7 business days. Individuals who suffered damage or food loss alone (approved September 21, 2011) from Hurricane Irene and who resided or worked in the 11 aforementioned counties on August 28, 2011, will be considered eligible for D-SNAP benefits. No household may receive more than one D-SNAP or supplemental allotment during the benefit period, even if the household incurred expenses from both Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Irene.
- On September 14, 2011, to issue automatic supplemental benefits up to the maximum allotment for household size to ongoing SNAP households who resided in the following counties and zip codes at the time of the disasters: Greene, Schoharie, Tioga, and Ulster and the zip code areas of Westchester County including, Bedford (10506, 10507), New Castle (10514), North Castle (10504), Mount Kisco (10549), North Salem (10560), Pound Ridge (10576), Yorktown (10588, 10598), Somers (10589), Lewisboro (10590), Ossining (10562), and Mamaroneck (10538) once the State provides FNS with information such as the caseload and estimated amount of supplemental benefits to be issued. Ongoing SNAP recipients in Albany, Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Dutchess, Essex, Montgomery, Orange, Otsego, and Schenectady counties and the remaining areas of Westchester County may receive supplemental benefits upon completion of an affidavit attesting to their disaster losses or if they filed an affidavit for replacement SNAP benefits due to losses from Tropical Storm Lee.
- On September 14, 2011, to issue mass SNAP replacement benefits equal to 25% of the August 2011 allotment to households who resided in the counties of Greene, Schoharie, and Ulster, and in the following localities within Westchester County: Bedford (10506, 10507), New Castle (10514), North Castle (10504), Mount Kisco (10549), North Salem (10560), Pound Ridge (10576), Yorktown (10588, 10598), Somers (10589), Lewisboro (10590), Mamaroneck (10538) and Ossining (10562) on August 28, 2011. Households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss are excluded from the mass replacement process. If a household submits an affidavit after receiving the 25% mass replacement and requests an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household is only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced. Replacement benefits will automatically be issued to SNAP households by means of an automated credit to their Electronic Benefits Transfer card.
- On September 7, 2011, to extend the time for reporting loss of food purchased with August 2011 SNAP benefits due to power outages caused by Hurricane Irene and to request replacement benefits through September 30, 2011 (approved on September 27, 2011), if the household submits a signed affidavit.

- On September 27, 2011, to extend the time for reporting loss of food purchased with September 2011 SNAP benefits, due to power outages caused by Tropical Storm Lee and to request replacement benefits through September 30, 2011, if the household submits a signed affidavit.

Status of USDA Foods:

- On September 1, 2011, FNS approved a request from the State to provide 11,111 pounds of USDA Foods valued at \$15,403 for disaster congregate feeding.

New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Food Stamp Benefits Information:

<http://otda.ny.gov/programs/food-stamps/>

FEMA declared disaster counties:

<http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=15533>

North Carolina

As of October 3, 2011, FNS has provided over \$37 million in D-SNAP benefits to 283,203 individuals in 120,531 households in 35 North Carolina counties affected by Hurricane Irene. The State received FNS approval:

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- On September 13, 2011, to expand the D-SNAP to (2) counties, including Pender and Wayne beginning September 19, 2011, with the State option to operate up to 7 days.
- On September 7, 2011, to expand the D-SNAP to (24) counties, including Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Johnston, Jones, Martin, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Warren, Washington and Wilson from September 10, 2011, through September 14, 2011, with the option to operate up to seven calendar days.
- On September 2, 2011, to issue mass supplemental benefits to all ongoing SNAP households in (9) counties, including Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Dare, Halifax, Hyde, Lenoir, Pamlico and Tyrell; in (24) counties, including Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Johnston, Jones, Martin, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Warren, Washington and Wilson (approved September 7, 2011); and in (2) counties, including Pender and Wayne (approved September 13, 2011) who filed an affidavit for replacement SNAP benefits or who did not request replacement SNAP benefits but who file an affidavit attesting to disaster related expenses.
- On September 2, 2011, to operate a D-SNAP in (9) counties, including Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Dare, Halifax, Hyde, Lenoir, Pamlico and Tyrrell from September 8-12, 2011, with the option to operate up to September 14, 2011. D-SNAP certification will occur at county certification offices, except in Terrell County where the D-SNAP application site will be co-located with FEMA.
- On September 2, 2011, to issue mass SNAP replacement benefits to households in (9) counties, including Beaufort, Carteret, Craven (approved on September 8, 2011), Dare, Halifax, Hyde, Lenoir, Pamlico and Tyrrell at 25% of the August 2011 allotment for households who had benefits issued from August 3-11, 2011, and at 50% of the August 2011 allotment for those who had benefits issued from August 12-21, 2011. Households in these areas began experiencing power outages caused by Hurricane Irene on August 27, 2011. Households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss are excluded from the mass replacement process. If a household submits an affidavit after receiving the mass replacement and requests an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household is only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced.

Replacement benefits will automatically be issued to SNAP households by means of an automated credit to their Electronic Benefits Transfer card.

- To allow SNAP households to purchase hot foods and hot food products with SNAP benefits through September 30, 2011, in (9) counties, including Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Dare, Halifax Hyde, Lenoir, Pamlico and Tyrrell and in any future counties that receive Individual Assistance Presidential disaster declarations.

North Carolina Division of Social Services Food Assistance via EBT card Information:

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/foodstamp/>

FEMA declared disaster counties:

<http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=15532>

Pennsylvania

As of October 3, 2011, FNS has provided over \$1.5 million in D-SNAP benefits to 3,933 households and 9,383 individuals in 28 Pennsylvania counties affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

The State received FNS approval:

- On September 27, 2011, to operate a D-SNAP in (7) counties, including Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia impacted by Tropical Storm Lee for up to seven days, beginning on September 28, 2011. No household may receive more than one D-SNAP or supplemental allotment during the benefit period, even if it incurred expenses from both Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.
- On September 17, 2011, to operate a D-SNAP in (11) counties, including Luzerne, Sullivan and Wyoming beginning September 20, 2011; in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia beginning as the County Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) become operational; in (19) counties, including Bradford, Columbia, Dauphin, Luzerne, Lycoming, Sullivan, and Wyoming beginning no earlier than Tuesday, September 20, 2011; and in Adams, Cumberland, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Snyder, Susquehanna, Union, and York once the county DRCs become operational. DRCs will accept applications on the weekend. For all counties, the State has the option to accept applications for up to seven days. Only individuals who suffered damage or disaster losses from Hurricane Irene and resided in the first 11 counties on August 27, 2011, will be eligible for D-SNAP in those counties. Only individual who suffered damage or disaster losses from Tropical Storm Lee and resided in the latter 19 counties on September 8, 2011, will be eligible for D-SNAP in those counties. No household may receive more than one D-SNAP or supplemental allotment during the benefit period, even if it incurred expenses from both disasters.
- On September 17, 2011, to issue supplemental benefits to all ongoing SNAP households in the above (28) (Berks County approved on September 27, 2011) counties upon the household's completion of an affidavit attesting to its disaster losses.
- On September 20, 2011, to extend the time SNAP households in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Sullivan and Wyoming counties have to report loss of food purchased with August 2011 SNAP benefits due to power outages and flooding caused by Hurricane Irene. SNAP households in these counties will have until September 26, 2011, to report SNAP food loss, request replacement benefits, and to submit signed affidavits of loss to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

- On September 20, 2011, to extend the time SNAP households in Adams, Bradford, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Union, Wyoming and York counties have to report loss of food purchased with September 2011 SNAP benefits due to power outages and flooding caused by Tropical Storm Lee. SNAP households in these counties will have until October 7, 2011, to report SNAP food loss, request replacement benefits, and to submit signed affidavits of loss to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare SNAP Information:

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/supplementalnutritionassistanceprogram/disastersupplementalnutritionassistanceprogrambenefits/index.htm>

FEMA declared disaster counties:

<http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=15592>

<http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=15712>

Puerto Rico**The Territory received FNS approval:**

- On August 26, 2011, to operate a disaster household food distribution program. The Puerto Rico Department of the Family has distributed 23,846 boxes of USDA Foods to 16,615 families in 13 municipalities and has scheduled additional distribution of 26,500 food boxes through September 2, 2011.
- To operate the Disaster Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) in which they will provide a third of the August 2011 NAP food benefits as replacements for losses in certain localities affected by Hurricane Irene.

Puerto Rico Department of the Family Disaster Nutrition Assistance Program Information:

<http://www.familia.gobierno.pr/>

FEMA declared disaster municipalities:

<http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=15452>

Rhode Island**The State received FNS approval:**

- On September 7, 2011, to extend the time for reporting loss of food purchased with August 2011 SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits through September 19, 2011, if the household submits a signed affidavit.

Rhode Island Department of Human Services Food Assistance Information:

<http://www.dhs.ri.gov/FamilieswithChildren/FoodAssistance/tabid/824/Default.aspx>

Vermont

The State received FNS approval:

- On September 2, 2011, to extend the 10-day household reporting requirement for August 2011 SNAP benefit replacement requests by phone to September 23, 2011, for participants in all counties with an Individual Assistance (IA) disaster declaration (An extension from September 19th to September 23rd was approved on September 16, 2011.) Replacement reports and requests must come from the authorized head of household or other authorized household representative. Signed, individual affidavits attesting to loss will be accepted through September 23, 2011, in the remaining, non-IA counties.

Vermont Department of Children and Families 3SquaresVT Information:

<http://dcf.vermont.gov/>

FEMA declared disaster counties with Individual Assistance:

<http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=15552>

Virginia

The State received FNS approval:

- To extend the time for reporting loss of food purchased with August 2011 SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits through September 12, 2011, if the household submits a signed affidavit.
- On September 1, 2011, to issue mass SNAP replacement benefits equal to 15% of the August 2011 allotment to SNAP households who began experiencing power outages caused by Hurricane Irene on August 27, 2011, and who resided in the following (39) cities and counties: Brunswick, Chesapeake, Dinwiddie, Gloucester, Greenville-Emporia, Hampton, Isle of Wight, James City, Mathews, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton, Suffolk, Surry, Sussex, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, York-Poquoson, Charles City, Chesterfield, Essex, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, King and Queen, King William, Lancaster, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Petersburg, Richmond City, Richmond County, Westmoreland, King George, Prince George, and Alexandria. Households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss are excluded from the mass replacement process. If a household submits an affidavit after receiving the 15 percent mass replacement and requests an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household is only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced. Replacement benefits will automatically be issued to SNAP households by means of an automated credit to their Electronic Benefits Transfer card.

Virginia SNAP via EBT Card Information:

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/food.html>

*If you think you may be eligible for disaster food assistance in your State, please contact your local State agency for application requirements, date and site information:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/map.htm>.

*Items noted in red indicate operating or planned State Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (D-SNAPs).